

# St Mary & All Saints, Droxford

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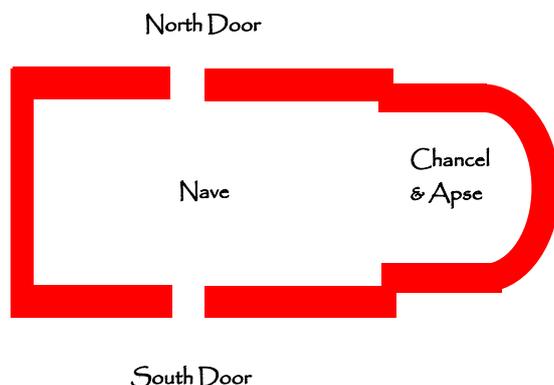
# St Mary & All Saints, Droxford



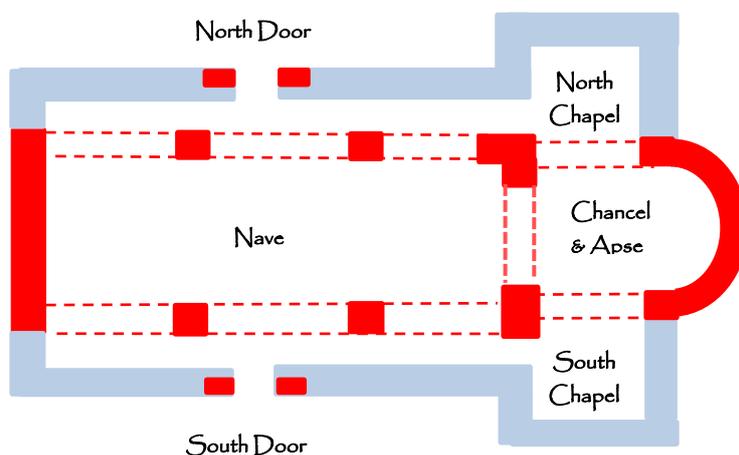
## Brief History

St Wilfrid may have established a religious foundation at Droxford during his mission to the Meon Valley during the period 681 to 686, but no evidence has been found of an Anglo-Saxon building of this period. The name of the village was not recorded until the year 826, when 20 hides of land at 'Drocenesford' were granted in a charter by King Egbert to the Old Monastery at Winchester. In 1086 the Domesday Book described 'Drocheneford' as being held by the Bishop of Winchester for the benefit of his monks, and having at that time a church valued at 20s.

The original Norman church dating from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, may have been a simple two-cell building, with just a nave and a chancel, and possibly an apse.



During the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century side aisles and chapels were constructed, and arches cut through the original Norman walls. The north and south doorways were moved to the outer walls of the aisles at the same times.



Nicholas Preston, 1660-1664  
William Hawkins, 1664-1691  
George Fulham, 1691-1700  
Thomas Goodwin, 1700-1701  
Peter Nourse, 1701-1722  
Lewis Stephens, 1722-1746  
James Cutler, 1746-1782  
James Chelsum, 1782-1801  
William Garnier, 1801-1831  
J.A. Griffith Colpoys, 1831-1868  
Stephen Bridge, 1868-1886  
Robert Harrison, 1886-1902  
John Vaughan, 1902-1910  
Jacob Stephenson, 1910-1926  
Leonard Etheridge, 1926-1946  
Gerald Page, 1946-1964  
Thomas Strangeways, 1965-1969  
John Townsend, 1969-1974  
John Beaumont, 1974-1987  
David Henley, 1987-2003  
Jim Foley, 2003-2009  
Stuart Holt, 2009-2014  
Tony Forrest, 2015-

## Rectors of Droxford

Peter Rusciniol, 1231

Peter de Abuzun, 1250

John de Berewik, 1280

Nicholas de Audeby, 1289-1308

John de Drokenesford, 1308-1310

Philip de Drokenesford, 1310-1315

Michael de Drokenesford, 1315

Richard de Hamptone, 1367-1374

John de Dounay 1374

Richard Gomfrey, 1375-1377

Roger Bryklesworth, 1377-1390

John de Swafham, 1390-1394

Willian Norton, 1394

Poggio de Florencia, 1423

Michael Cleue, 1477

David Persons, 1480

William Holden, 1485

William Cuffold, 1533-1558/9

John Willyams, 1559-1582/3

Thomas Bilson, 1583

John Harmer, 1596-1613

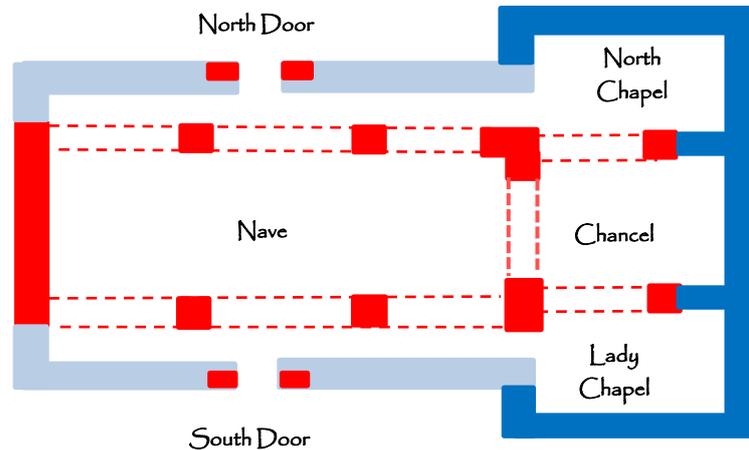
Christopher Hurst, 1613-1628

Richard Neile, 1628-1642

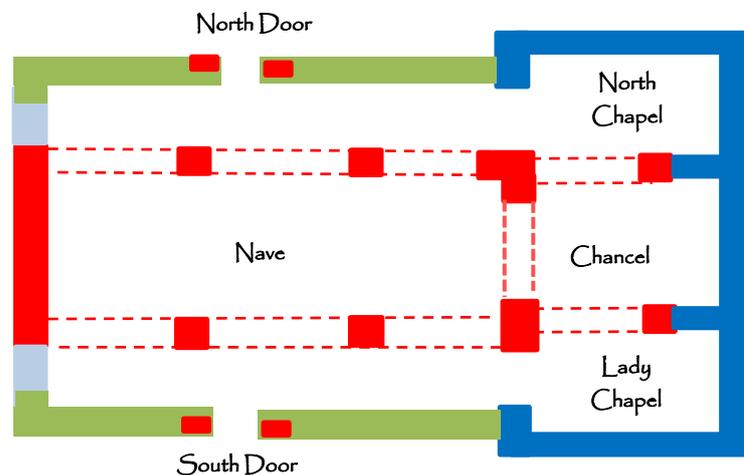
Nicholas Preston, 1642-1650

Robert Webb, 1650-1660

The chapels appear to have been enlarged at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century or the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The apse may have been removed at the same time.

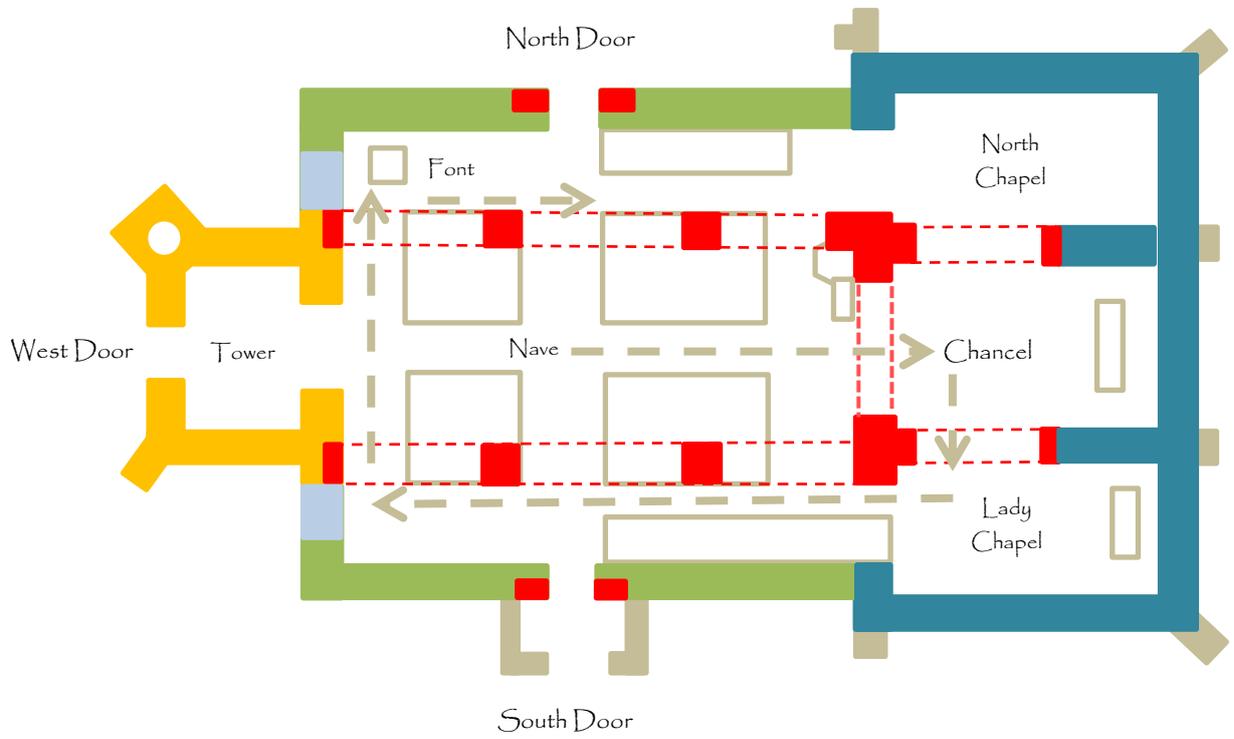


The side aisles of the church were widened late in the 15<sup>th</sup> or early in the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the Norman doorways moved yet again to the new outer walls.



The tower was probably constructed in 1599. No other significant additions have been made to the main fabric of the church since then.

A plan of the building is shown below, indicating the likely dates of the main stonework. The route indicated on the plan follows the sequence of this guidebook.

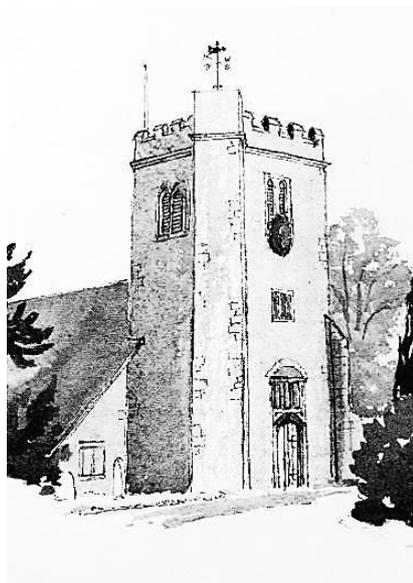


- Mid 12<sup>th</sup> century
- Late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Late 16<sup>th</sup> century

Above the west door is a plaque showing the date AD1599. This is thought to refer to the construction of the present tower, although there is evidence of an earlier steeple.



The tower has a square stair turret set diagonally in the north-west corner, and brick battlements that were added later.



There are five bells. The first of these, a treble, was fitted in 1606. A second dates from 1631, and a third and tenor from 1672. A fifth bell, from St Margaret's Church, Canterbury and dated 1625, was added in 1969.

One of the many memorials in the churchyard is dedicated to Anne Sumner, who was the first wife of J.A. Griffith Colpoys, rector from 1831 to 1868.



Her father was John Bird Sumner, who was later to become Archbishop of

Canterbury, and her uncle was Charles Sumner, Bishop of Winchester.

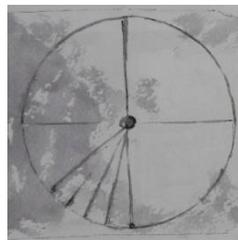
### The Exterior

The north and south doorways date from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and are elaborately decorated with zigzag, chevron and spiral carvings.



They were part of the original Norman building, but later moved to the walls of the side aisles when these were added to the church.

There are medieval mass dials on each of the jambs of the south doorway, and two more on the stonework of the south east window of the Lady Chapel.



Much of the flintwork on the external walls is from recent centuries. The most distinctive features of the roof are the Georgian cornice, and the Victorian dormer windows on the south side.



### The Nave

The walls the nave are the outer walls of the original Norman church, probably dating from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The chancel arch, with its zigzag carvings, is also from this period, but was raised by about four feet in more recent times. The pointed arches were cut into the walls when the aisles and chapels were first constructed, between the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.



The pews were installed in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At that date there was seating for about 300 people, to accommodate large Victorian congregations. The pulpit is a Victorian copy of a 15<sup>th</sup> century design, and was given to St Mary & All Saints in 1882 by the congregation of St Matthew's, Denmark Hill, where Stephen Bridge, rector of Droxford from 1868 to 1886, had previously been the vicar.



Above the pulpit can be seen the exit from a narrow staircase inside the north pillar of the chancel arch. In medieval times this would have led to a rood loft running across the chancel arch, carrying a representation of the Crucifixion.



The brass eagle lectern was the gift of Mr Richard Redfern Goodlad of Hill Place, in memory of his wife Emma, who died in 1867.



The stonework of the south arcade has a few faded remains of medieval paintwork, in a pattern of intertwined red roses.



There are a number of graffiti throughout the church, including some ritual protection marks, such as this daisy-wheel or hexfoil design.



The ceilings of the nave have a distinctive cornice in the Georgian style, and there are two Victorian dormer windows on the south side.

The window in the north wall of the north-west corner depicts the Creation. It was designed in 1982 by Carl Edwards, who also produced stained glass for Liverpool Cathedral, the House of Lords, and the Temple Church in London.



Those from Droxford who died in the 1914-1918 war are remembered by a rectangular alabaster tablet on a blue mosaic background, surmounted by a red mosaic pediment, also manufactured by James Powell & Sons, and mounted to the left of the north door.



Nearby there are a number of impressive 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century memorials to members of the Morley family, who lived at the Manor House. A large marble cartouche with carved scrolls is dedicated to Francis Morley, who died in 1690. It was probably made in the workshops of Edward Pierce, a noted mason and sculptor of the time.



An oval slate tablet set into the pillar adjacent to the font has a Latin inscription which records that Francis, second son of the Rev. Francis Morley, himself the second son of the above mentioned Francis Morley Esq., died on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1690, having lived just 8 months. He had been baptised in Winchester Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1689.



In the west wall of the north aisle is another single-mullion window, dating from 1920. It shows St Nicholas on the left and St Christopher on the right, and was

manufactured by James Powell & Sons, also known as Whitefriars Glass.



### The Chancel

The oak altar rails in the chancel are from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the panelling was made and installed in 1903 in a style from that period.



The east window of the chancel was installed in 1947 as a memorial to members of the Hulbert family, after the previous window was damaged during the Second World War. Its main theme is the Nativity.



Above the arch from the chancel into the Lady Chapel are segments of two of the original windows of the church.



### The Lady Chapel

The Lady Chapel may have originally been constructed during the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and extended to its present size at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It retains a number of medieval features.



The Purbeck marble figure of a woman to the left of the altar is thought to have been part of a memorial erected early in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by John de Drokensford to his mother.



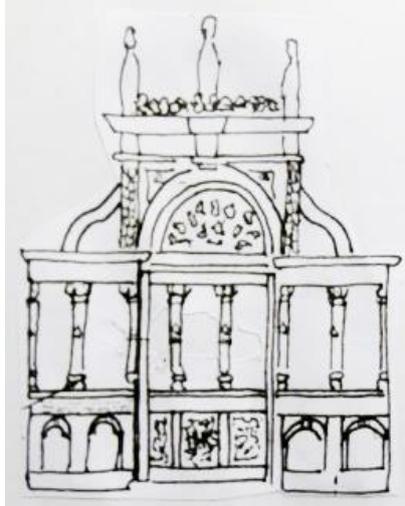
John de Drokensford was the son of a local squire, and at various times Rector of Droxford, Keeper of the King's Wardrobe to Edward I, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Edward II, a chaplain to the Pope, and Bishop of Bath & Wells.

The figure was removed by the Puritans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but retrieved from a nearby field in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and restored to the church.

In the south-east corner is a two-light window by Vanessa Cutler, a contemporary exponent in the art of stained glass. It commemorates the year 2000 millennium, and shows Noah's Ark in the flood.



The neo-Jacobean oak screen was designed in 1935 by the eminent architect Sir Charles Nicholson, at the time when he was working on Portsmouth Cathedral.



### The North Aisle

The font is from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but copied from a Norman design. Its wooden lid is decorated with an ornate wrought iron cross, inscribed with the date 1980.



### The South Aisle

Dr Nicholas Preston is buried under a light brown marble slab in the south aisle of the church. He was rector from 1642 until 1650, when he was ejected by the Puritans, and replaced by an Independent minister, Mr Robert Webb. He forcibly took back the position in 1660 after the restoration under Charles II, thrusting out Mr Webb and his family and goods ‘in a rough and violent manner’.

Among the monuments on the wall of the south aisle is a white marble memorial commemorating Richard Goodlad of Hill Place, and his second wife Frances.



Mr Goodlad appears to have been a rather authoritarian magistrate, described by William Cobbett in his *Rural Rides* as 'a cock Justice of the Peace'. In 1815 he sentenced eight boys and four girls between the ages of 11 and 15 to a month in prison for being rogues and vagabonds, and begging from door-to-door. Mr Goodlad was Sheriff of Hampshire in 1818.

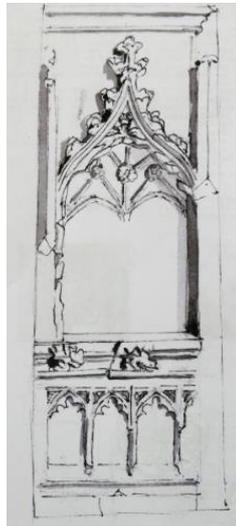
The stained glass of the window in the west wall of the south aisle depicts the Virgin Mary on the left, with a text from the *Magnificat*, and Simeon on the right with a text from the *Nunc Dimittis*. It was made in 1909 in the studios founded by Charles Eamer Kempe, and has his company signature, a wheat sheaf, in the bottom right hand corner of the left hand light, superimposed with the black tower of his heir, Walter Tower.



A pre-Reformation piscina, used for washing communion vessels, was uncovered to the right of the altar during restoration of the church in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are two more piscinae in the church, one in the north chapel, and one behind the panelling in the sanctuary.



To the left of the altar is a stone niche with an ogee shaped canopy, probably dating from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. The niche shows traces of medieval painting. It would originally have contained a statue, probably of the Virgin Mary, which would most likely have been removed at the time of the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



The arch from the Lady Chapel into the chancel rests on two carved heads, which probably date the 14<sup>th</sup> century.



The stained glass windows in the south wall of the Lady Chapel were installed in 1903, and are by the firm of Clayton & Bell. The left hand window depicts the risen Christ with St Peter. The right hand window shows the risen Christ with Mary Magdalene.



The stained glass in the east window of the Lady Chapel, installed in 1938, is a memorial to Stephen Bridge, rector of Droxford from 1868 to 1886, and his wife Margaret. It was designed by Martin Travers, who was at the time chief instructor in stained glass at the Royal College of Art. The Virgin and Child are depicted at its centre.



The four corners show St Francis preaching to a collection of birds, St Wilfrid with the masons building St Mary & All Saints, St George slaying a dragon, and St Stephen speaking in his own defence.



The hand of God is shown at the top of the window. Below it a dove represents the Holy Spirit. On either side are the crests of the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth.

Behind the altar is a reredos with the Lamb of God at its centre. To the right are lilies, symbolic of the Virgin Mary. To the left, in red and gold, are the letters IHS, derived from the Greek spelling of Jesus. It was given by her family in memory of Hannah Talbot-Ponsonby, and is dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 1952.



A circular slate memorial with a plaster surround mounted between the windows on the south wall commemorates Lewis Stephens, rector of Droxford from 1722 to 1746, who founded the parish library. This is now held in the library of the University of Southampton.



A stone plaque on the south wall is dedicated to Neville Lovett, first Bishop of Portsmouth and later Bishop of Salisbury, who retired to Droxford in 1946. The Lady Chapel is also known as the Bishop Lovett chapel.

